

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 and 12-19 are in the present application. It is submitted that the prior claims were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Claim 11 is canceled.

Claims 1 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mancuso et al. (U.S. Patent 6,285,801). Claims 2-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mancuso in view of Sun et al. (U.S. Patent 6,272,250) and Li et al. (U.S. Patent 5,602,934). Claims 1 and 19 have been amended to include the limitations of canceled dependent claim 11.

Mancuso discloses an image filter for detecting a degree of edge-ness of an image block by multiplying the pixel value of the image block by a Sobel-like operator in the global metrics extractor, estimating local metrics according to the degree of edge-ness and reducing the boundary noise.

Also, Li discloses a method for processing a target pixel X0 based on a four direction low-pass filter, outputting X11, X12, X13 and X14, combining X11, X12, X13 and X14 which

are weighted based on weighting parameters related to a differential between the pixels
(Equation 4).

In these references, the processed image data will be spatially close to the given input image data. However, in the present claims 1 and 19, the similar input data is not only spatially but also temporally close to the given input data. Accordingly, the performance of the noise reduction in the present processing apparatus is much better than in the cited references.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, Mancuso, Sun and Li fail to anticipate and/or obviate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

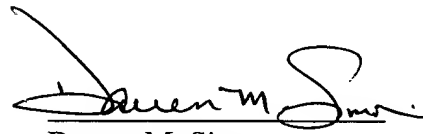
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren M. Simon", written over a horizontal line.

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